

## Editor's Note

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This issue of the Philippine Social Sciences Review brings together timely and socially-relevant articles.

Two essays relate with the Philippine-American War—an event that recently caught public attention with the return of the Balangiga Bells to Samar. Rowena Q. Bailon's article argues for the significance of American soldiers' letters in understanding the wartime anti-imperialist propaganda in the United States. It illustrates not only how individual soldiers' life stories became entangled with the political agenda of the influential Anti-Imperialist League, but also provides an instructive glimpse into the soldiers' personal lives and varied sentiments about the war. Nicholas Michael C. Sy's research note intends to understand John Taylor's selection of documents which formed the multivolume *Philippine Insurrection Against the United States* (1971), an invaluable source for the history of the Philippine-American War. It uses topic modeling, a tool from digital humanities, to explore co-occurrences of words within the corpus. It affirms the idea that automatically-generated word co-occurrences from topic modeling are by themselves not useful and suggests ways how to productively interact with such digital tool. This research note therefore lays foundations for a new method to solve the question of Taylor's selection of documents.

The theme of social relevance can be seen in the contributions of Danielle P. Ochoa and Jill Z. Manapat as well as of Hannah Glimpse Nario-Lopez. Nario-Lopez's research note brings us to one of the most important sites of the current administration's drug war—inside an overcrowded jail in metropolitan Manila. In an ethnographic tone, it problematizes the emotional labor of jail officers as they navigate between official expectations and everyday realities of running the jail amidst the influx of "drug suspects". It reflects on the researcher's own

positionality as she grapples with issues on gender and ethics in the research site, thus providing useful insights for researchers faced with similar issues.

Meanwhile, Danielle P. Ochoa and Jill Z. Manapat's article explores the extent to which students from two different disciplines (Psychology and Materials Engineering) gain positive social values after undergoing service-learning. It shows some encouraging results: both student groups are interpreted to have experienced increased nationalism and citizenship (*pagkamakabayan*). However, only one of the groups experienced gains in values strongly associated with local community engagement. As the article points out, the close association of service-learning with the nation and not with a specific community might be symptomatic of the "national orientation" of the University of the Philippines. The article's findings might help academic administrators and teachers alike in designing service-learning programs that encourages engagement not only with the nation but also with the immediate community.

These articles represent the Philippine Social Sciences Review's commitment to publish timely academic articles. The journal's fast approaching 90th anniversary (founded originally as Philippine Social Sciences and Humanities Review in 1929), provides an opportune moment and renewed impetus to reflect on its academic contributions and wider social relevance.

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